

ORNAMENTALS

• H O L L I N E •

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Issue 6

INSECTS

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SPOTTED LANTERNFLY is an invasive insect originally found in China, India or Vietnam, and was introduced into Pennsylvania and first found in Delaware a couple of years ago. Delaware Department of Agriculture has been leading the way in scouting, monitoring, and spreading the word about this invasive pest. Currently, the insect has established populations in New Castle county with monitoring efforts continuing throughout the state. This insect is a member of Hemiptera and has piercing/sucking mouthparts. They feed on a variety hosts including tree-of-heaven, grapes, apples, stone fruits, walnuts, willows and others. PA has recently reported egg mass hatching.

Adult spotted lanternflies are about 1 x ½ inch (l/w). Front wings are grey with black spots and hind wings are red with black spots. Their abdomen is yellow with black bands. Immature insects are smaller, black with white spots, and as they age, red patches develop. They feed on sap from host trees, frequently causing weeping wounds on their hosts. Excreted honeydew and the sap from the wounds, which leaves a greyish

DISEASES

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician

GERANIUM samples in Michigan originating from Guatemala were recently confirmed positive for the bacterial wilt pathogen *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2. *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2 is a USDA/APHIS regulated plant pest for the United States and Canada, but this is the first confirmed case in a U.S. greenhouse since 2004. This strain of the *Ralstonia* bacterium can cause a wilt disease in important agricultural crops such as potatoes, tomatoes, peppers and eggplant. Trace testing and follow up is being done according to USDA/APHIS directives, with State Departments of Agriculture inspecting and testing, and assisting with disposal and cleanup. A quarantine includes all forms of geranium Fantasia Pink Flare including unrooted and callused cuttings, rooted liners and pre-finished products, with stopped shipment of suspect geraniums. Common bacterial blight, however, occurs often on geranium in greenhouses and plantings in our region, with yellow leaf spots in a wedge that begins on leaf margins. Caused by the bacterium *Xanthomonas*, and spread by infected cuttings and water splash, blight makes foliage look unsightly and drop prematurely, but is not a USDA regulated problem. Remove and discard affected foliage, increase air circulation amidst plantings, and avoid overhead water or water early in the day

What's Hot!

Lace bug eggs are hatching in Sussex county.

Some plants leafed out early with the early warm weather in March. That was followed by a relatively cold spring and in some places, frost. This has caused cold injury on otherwise hardy plants. In most cases, plants will grow out of that early injury, but customers may be alarmed.



Holly cold injury Photo credit: T. Wootten



Geranium bacterial blight Photo credit: N. Gregory

For more information

on pests and practices covered in this newsletter, call your County Extension Office

Helpful numbers to know:



Garden Line	831-8862
(for home gardeners only)	
New Castle County Extension	831-2506
Kent County Extension	730-4000
Sussex County Extension	856-7303

View more photos at <http://extension.udel.edu/ornamentals/>

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Insects (continued)

or blackish sticky trail on the plant, are attractive to ants and stinging insects such as wasps. Greyish brown egg masses may be laid on host tree trunks and branches or limbs that are higher in the canopy. They are also laid on nearby structures, stones and benches. Heavy populations may cause branch dieback, wilting, or plant death. Eggs should be hatching soon, if they have not begun to do so already.

This insect is a very good hitch-hiker; consequently, vehicles, people, paving stones, and other items from neighboring states should be examined closely if they are near infestations. Delaware Department of Agriculture has a program searching for this insect and wants to be informed if someone finds this pest. They have steps to follow if you believe you have found it:

- Take a picture with GPS function turned on your smartphone or camera
- Upload photograph to Facebook or Instagram using #HitchHikerBug
- If no GPS or access to social media; then, email HitchHikerBug@state.de.us with your name, contact information, and address where photo was taken
- Collect a specimen in a vial or plastic zip-lock bag
- Turn specimen into DE Department of Agriculture CAPS program
- For more information visit: <https://agriculture.delaware.gov/plant-industries/spotted-lanternfly/>



Spotted lanternfly egg mass Photo credit: B. Kunkel

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist



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COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION

GROWING DEGREE DAYS

AS OF April 28, 2020

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) = 102 ('19 = 279)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County, DE) = 92 ('19 = 296)
- Research & Education Center - Gorgetown (Sussex County, DE) = 189 ('19 = 341)



Spotted lanternfly egg mass Photo credit: B. Kunkel



Spotted lanternfly adult Photo credit: B. Kunkel



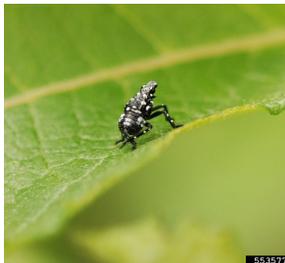
Spotted lanternfly adult and eggs Photo credit: B. Kunkel



Spotted lanternfly adult and weep wound Photo credit: B. Kunkel



Spotted lanternfly eggs covered and not- Photo credit: B. Kunkel



Spotted lanternfly nymph Photo credit: L. Barringer, PA Dept of Ag, bugwood.org